

## TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly  
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson  
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair  
Shirley Canniff  
Donald Vitters  
Jim Robillard  
Elena Bartholomew, Associate  
Peter Hedlund, Associate

### Recreation Department

#### Park and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, November 25, 2014  
Arlington Senior Center  
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM for its meeting in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, November 25, 2014

Members in attendance included: Leslie Mayer, Shirley Canniff, Jen Rothenberg, Don Vitters, Jim Robillard and Associate Member Elena Bartholomew. Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly was also present.

Members from the public: Planning Director Carol Kowalski and Bob Radocchio, a member of the Master Planning Committee.

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of November 13, 2014 was tabled.

#### Open Forum – Public Comments

There were no comments.

#### Master Plan Discussion with Planning Director, Carol Kowalski

Ms. Kowalski reviewed the Master Plan process with the Commission. Ms. Kowalski acknowledged the feedback received from the Commission had not been included in any draft, and Ms. Mayer shared her frustration with this. The Commission, along with the public, has until December 2<sup>nd</sup> to give feedback on the draft report. Ms. Kowalksi said an updated draft would be out prior to a January 12<sup>th</sup> public hearing. After the hearing, the draft would be finalized for acceptance by the Redevelopment Board and presentation to the Spring 2015 Town Meeting.

The Commission discussed the need for maintenance at all recreation properties and stated that it was the number one priority. The Commission was clear that the need was for maintenance management and maintenance funds for outdoor open spaces. The Commission discussed the definition of “universal access” and how the ADA study should be referenced within the report. The other item that should be stated is the desire for the Town to obtain ownership of the rink from the DCR or a better arrangement with respect to funding improvements and maintenance.

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The Commission discussed greater clarification between school department and recreation property at the school sites. It is often confusing to the public and the Commission discussed ways to make this distinction clearer with Ms. Kowalski.

The Commissioners agreed to review the document and send Mr. Connelly any feedback prior to December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Special Requests**

#### **Review of 2014 Park Picnic and Reservations**

Mr. Connelly reviewed the updated table of picnic, special event and birthday party park reservations.

The Commission thanked him for providing the breakdown and discussed the data.

### **Rink and Recreation Update**

Mr. Connelly stated that new Program Supervisor Erin Campbell has started and was off to a great start.

### **Commission Topic Leader Discussion**

Topic Leader discussion will be on the agenda for the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Connelly quickly reviewed some of his ideas for each topic area with the Commission.

### **Capital Projects Update**

Mr. Connelly reviewed and updated the Commission on the following capital projects:

*Spy Pond Tennis Courts* – Mr. Connelly asked for a clear direction that he could give to the landscape architect with regard to the tennis mini courts. The Commission liked the idea of possibly introducing two mini courts into the plan, if feasible, and asked Mr. Connelly to have Mr. Leonard add this as an option to the plans, which would be bid as an add alternate. The Commission asked Mr. Connelly to proceed with an application for a grant from the USTA for up to \$20,000 in funding. The Commission would also like to see the two baseball practice areas remain in the plan, if possible. Mr. Leonard will not be going in front of the Conservation Commission with the plans until January, so until that happens the Commission will not finalize the plans. Mr. Connelly was asked to move forward with the request to the BoS for a Transportation Advisory Committee assessment of the traffic and pedestrian safety concerns in the area.

*ADA Study* - Mr. Connelly and Ms. Mayer reviewed the meeting with IHCD on the final feedback and stated a final report would be ready in December. The Commission discussed the need for repairs and upgrades to the rink. Mr. Connelly will continue further discussions with the DCR on financial and technical assistance for the upgrades.

*Rink* – Mr. Connelly stated that the request for ADA improvements and electrical upgrades was in the capital requests for FY 16, however, the locker room addition and zamboni room alterations were not in

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the plan until after FY18. The Commission discussed the upgrades and the percentage payback coming from the Enterprise Fund. Mr. Connelly stated the current payback is \$83,000 annually, which represents nearly 60% of the payback. The additionally 40+% was being paid from the general capital budget. Mr. Connelly stated that this would be the case for the locker room expansion project as well but not the ADA and electrical upgrades.

*Magnolia Basketball Court* - On hold until playground renovation in FY2016.

*Thorndike OLRA* – Waiting for a quote from the contractor for ADA improvements. Once a price estimate is received, Mr. Connelly will work on a funding mechanism for the upgrades. Pending available funding, a final design will be discussed.

*Skateboard Park* – Ms. Rothenberg asked if any progress has been made with Converse regarding possible funding for skatepark upgrades. Mr. Connelly stated that the discussion was on hold, but that he would touch base with them before the next meeting.

*2016 Capital Requests* - All capital requests have been made and are waiting recommendation from the Finance Committee and approval from the 2015 Town Meeting.

### Other

The Commission, once again, discussed the issue of toys being left at Magnolia Playground and all over the basketball court. Mr. Connelly will have the toys removed and available for pick-up at the Recreation Department, if anyone inquires.

Mr. Connelly stated that the accessible swings were exchanged between Hibbert and Florence and that the new swing at Florence will be the model specified for use on all future projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted:  
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation